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and retracting a semi-solid emollient. Preferably, mechanism 28 includes a base 32, a threaded retainer 34 and a threaded rod 36. Threaded rod 36 has a tapered, non-threaded end 38 opposite retainer 34. As shown in FIG. 2, base 32 is connected to the bottom of retainer 34 and threaded rod 36 is received in retainer 34.

A thumbscrew 40 is attached to first end 14, and connected to base 32. Thumbscrew 40 is preferably tapered and has an outer diameter equal to the diameter of wall 18 at the end where it connects to tube 12 and an outer diameter of 0.40" at the opposite end. Thumbscrew 40 includes a plurality of indentations 42, which are preferably radially spaced about its periphery, and are for the purpose of providing the user a better grip.

A preferred cap 44 is shown in FIGS. 1 and 3. Cap 44 has a cylindrical wall 46 including an outer wall 48 and an inner wall 50, wherein inner wall 50 defines a cavity 52. Cap 44 also includes a top wall 53 and an annular projection 56 that extends from inner wall 50 into cavity 52. Projection 56 is for retaining cap 44 on second end 16 of container 10 and it is positioned such that it is retained by annular lip 24 when cap 44 is pressed onto end 16.

In operation, an emollient is placed within cavity 26 and cap 44 is pressed onto end 16. When used, cap 44 is removed and thumbscrew 40 is turned in one direction, turning base 32 and rod 36, which turns the threads of rod 36 within the threads of retainer 34. This moves retainer 34 towards second end 16 and retainer 34 pushes (or extends) the emollient retained within cavity 26 out of the opening at second end 16, thereby exposing it for use. When thumbscrew 40 is turned in the opposite direction, rod 34 turns in that direction and retainer 34 moves towards first end 14 and the emollient preferably retracts into cavity 26.

Packaging a cuticle care formulation containing semi-solid emollients, particularly emollients with a "dry" feel, in a container, such as an extendable/retractable container, allows the emollient to be portable and easily used. This precise delivery of the emollient, due to the container and/or the semi-solid form of the emollient, helps to reduce the greasy feeling experienced when consumers apply other cuticle treatment products or have them applied by others, such as during a visit to a nail salon. A further advantage of the use of a container according to the invention is that it makes the emollient available for use at any time, and it can be used at virtually any time because the emollient is applied only to the cuticles and does not get on the user's fingertips. Thus, the emollient can be used in everyday home or office situations or in the evening during leisure time with little risk of contacting unselected surfaces with greasy or staining materials.

Another embodiment for a container is a pencil type tube. The interior of tube is hollow to contain the emollient. Thus, one needs only to "sharpen" the "pencil" or remove a portion of the tube container to project a portion of the contained emollient therefrom. Once the semi-solid emollient projects from the tube, the user may apply it onto selected areas. Another version of this same pencil type container is a "wrapped" pencil or one where the outer container is a continuous ribbon of material such as a stiff paper. The ribbon is wrapped about a stick of semi-solid emollient to conveniently package and contain the emollient. Thus, in

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this embodiment, the user need only unwrap a portion of the end of the wrap type pencil to project a portion of the contained emollient stick. As above, once the semi-solid emollient projects from the tube, the user may apply it onto selected areas.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is described above in the Drawings and Description of Preferred Embodiments. While these descriptions directly describe the above embodiments, it is understood that those skilled in the art may conceive modifications and/or variations to the specific embodiments shown and described herein. Any such modifications or variations that fall within the purview of this description are intended to be included therein as well. Unless specifically noted, it is the intention of the inventor that the words and phrases in the specification and claims be given the ordinary and accustomed meanings to those of ordinary skill in the applicable art(s). The foregoing description of a preferred embodiment and best mode of the invention known to the applicant at the time of filing the application has been presented and is intended for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed, and many modifications and variations are possible in the light of the above teachings. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical application and to enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

What is claimed is:

1. A semi-solid emollient composition for cuticle treatment.
2. The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a melt temperature ranging between 40–60 degrees Celcius.
3. The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 2 wherein the composition further has a melt temperature ranging between 47–51 degrees Celsius.
4. The product of claim 2 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition imparts a dry feel to the user.
5. The product of claim 2 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition for cuticle treatment comprises esterified materials derived from natural seed and/or nut oils.
6. The product of claim 5 wherein the esterified natural organic oils are jojoba esters.
7. The emollient of claim 5 wherein the esterified natural organic oils are saturated and/or unsaturated ethyl esters and/or isopropyl esters of (a) long-chain fatty acids, and/or (b) alcohols, wherein the long-chain fatty acids and alcohols are derived from plant seed oils.
8. The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 2 that further includes one or more active ingredients.
9. The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 8 wherein the one or more active ingredients is selected from the group consisting of antifungals, colorants, fragrances, antimicrobial agents, analgesics, topical anesthetics, skin whitening agents, sun blocks, insect repellants, vitamins, hormones, proteins, cosmeceuticals, and botanical extracts.
10. A product for treating cuticles with emollient, the product comprising:
  - (a) a semi-solid emollient composition for cuticle treatment; and

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(b) a container that retains the semi-solid emollient and enables a user to apply the emollient to a selected surface without the user having to touch the emollient with his/her finger tips.

11. The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 10 wherein the composition has a melt temperature ranging between 40–60 degrees Celsius.

12. The semi-solid emollient composition of claim 11 wherein the composition further has a melt temperature ranging between 47–51 degrees Celsius.

13. The product of claim 11 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition imparts a dry feel to the user.

14. The product of claim 11 wherein the semi-solid emollient composition for cuticle treatment comprises esterified materials derived from natural seed and/or nut oils.

15. The product of claim 14 wherein the esterified natural organic oils are jojoba esters.

16. The emollient of claim 14 wherein the esterified natural organic oils are saturated and/or unsaturated ethyl esters and/or isopropyl esters of (a) long-chain fatty acids, and/or (b) alcohols, wherein the long-chain fatty acids and alcohols are derived from plant seed oils.

17. The product of claim 11 wherein the emollient further comprises one or more active ingredients.

18. The product of claim 17 wherein the one or more active ingredients is selected from the group consisting of antifungals, colorants, fragrances, antimicrobial agents, analgesics, topical anesthetics, skin whitening agents, sun blocks, insect repellants, vitamins, hormones, proteins, cosmeceuticals, and botanical extracts.

19. The product of claim 11 wherein the container has an opening and includes a removable cap that covers the opening.

20. The product of claim 19 wherein the container is a pencil form.

21. The product of claim 20 wherein the pencil form container is less than 10" in length.

22. The product of claim 11 wherein the container is a propel/repel container that includes a device for extending the semi-solid emollient composition retained therein.

23. The product of claim 22 wherein the container has an opening and includes a removable cap that covers the opening, the emollient capable of being extended through the opening.

24. A method for treating a cuticle using a semi-solid emollient composition comprising the steps of providing a semi-solid emollient composition in a container and applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area without touching the semi-solid emollient composition with any fingertips.

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25. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of extruding the semi-solid emollient composition past the opening in the container.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of removing portions of the container, thereby leaving a portion of the semi-solid emollient composition behind and extending past a remaining portion of the container.

28. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of removing a cap from the container of the semi-solid emollient composition before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of replacing the cap on the container after the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

30. The method of claim 24 further comprising the steps of removing a cap from the container of the semi-solid emollient composition before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition, extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area, wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of extruding the semi-solid emollient composition past the opening in the container, and replacing the cap on the container after the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

31. The method of claim 24 further comprising the steps of removing a cap from the container of the semi-solid emollient composition before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area, extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container before the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition, wherein the step of extending the semi-solid emollient composition past an opening in the container is the step of removing portions of the container, thereby leaving a portion of the semi-solid emollient composition behind and extending past a remaining portion of the container, and replacing the cap on the container after the step of applying the semi-solid emollient composition on a selected area.

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